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WOW YOUR GUESTS WITH A 'GAME OF THRONES'-INSPIRED PARTY PAGE 06



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RYAN GOSLING'S new bad-boy role

PAGE 14

Hey, girl, I have a face tattoo. / FOCUS FEATURES

**Feds bust
Gramercy
doc in oxy
drug raid**

**Stephenie
Meyer
is still
bloodthirsty**



**It's Wendy
Williams'
turn in the
hot seat**



PAGE 18

**Don't toss
those
leftover
Easter eggs!**

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NEWS



In the news

Quinn denies revenge

City Council Speaker Christine Quinn went on CNN to deny she retaliated against council members through financial cuts. Queens council members told The New York Times that after clashes with Quinn she removed funding from their districts.

Quoted

"It's not for chronic pain. What does that mean, chronic pain? Does anybody know?"

DIANE SAVINO, STATEN ISLAND STATE SENATOR, ON WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO USE MEDICAL MARIJUANA IF HER BILL PASSES IN ALBANY

Digital bandit

Cops seek laptop thief on crutches

Police are searching for a man on crutches who stole a bag containing a laptop from a building at Columbia University.

The suspect targeted a student and fled the scene on crutches.

The same suspect stole a wallet in another Columbia building, the New York Post reports. He may use the crutches as a prop, the Post said. **LAURA SHIN**



The suspect. / NYPD

Stabbed on stairs

Man stabbed to death in Brooklyn

A 21-year-old was stabbed to death on March 28, cops said.

According to police, officers responded to a 911 call reporting an unconscious man inside a stairwell in a building on Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn.

Cops found the man inside the stairwell stabbed in his torso.

The victim was pronounced dead at the scene. **ALISON BOWEN**



Special agents arrested 49 people, including a Manhattan doctor on Tuesday, on charges of drug trafficking. / DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Drug doc arrested in Oxy ring sweep

Trafficking. A doctor is accused of funneling 500,000 pills into the black market.

A coalition of federal and local officials announced Thursday the arrest of a Gramercy doctor and his office manager.

Dr. Hector Castro and his office manager, Patricia Valera, are being indicted on trafficking oxycodone,

a highly addictive prescription painkiller, between New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

An additional 47 people were arrested this week, including major drug kingpins in Pennsylvania.

Castro is accused of funneling more than 500,000 pills into the black market, amounting to at least \$10 million.

He is charged with the illegal sale of 39 prescriptions for \$125 each, including 28 prescriptions sold to a Special Narcotics undercover officer. He was arrested at his

Midtown home on Tuesday.

Valera is charged with forgery and "criminal diversion" scheme, stemming from 155 prescription sheets she stole.

NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly commended the New York Drug Enforcement Strike Force "on their vigilance and persistent effort to prosecute prescription drug dealers and distributors who maltreat the medical profession."

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN
danielle.tcholakian@metro.us

Interstate drug bust

Fourty-nine people were arrested this week, including major drug kingpins in Pennsylvania.

• The arrests occurred as part of an investigation known as Operation Cuba Libre.

• Agents and officers seized 30 guns in a series of searches: 28 in Pennsylvania and two in New York.

Online. NYPD issues social media rules

After members of the FDNY were recently disciplined for posting racist slurs on Twitter, Police Commissioner Ray Kelly has issued a set of regulations detailing what cops can and cannot post on social media sites.

According to the memo, cops cannot identify themselves as members of the NYPD.

on their social media profiles, the New York Daily News reports.

They also cannot create profiles for their units or precincts, and are prohibited from posting pictures in uniform.

Anyone who violates these rules is subject to disciplinary action, including termination.

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN

Investigation

Teen found dead in Bronx

A 17-year-old Bronx girl was found dead after cops responded to a 911 call about a dispute inside her home on Wednesday, police said.

Officers said that Khailaysha Bunch was found unresponsive. She was pronounced dead on arrival.

LAURA SHIN

Surgery. Doc charged in liposuction death

Brooklyn prosecutors indicted a doctor they said recklessly performed liposuction on a woman who later died.

District Attorney Charles Hynes charged Dr. Oleg Davie, 51, on March 28, with manslaughter.

Davie performed liposuction surgery on a patient who had

heart transplant surgery before, something that should have barred Davie from the procedure, Hynes said.

Davie performed the liposuction in May of 2012.

The patient went into cardiac arrest, collapsed and died after being rushed to Coney Island Hospital. **ALISON BOWEN**

The Madness Ends Sunday

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New memo surfaces in stop-and-frisk trial



New York police watch a stop-and-frisk protest.

ALLISON JOYCE, GETTY IMAGES

Evidence. The memo reveals information about the city's controversial policing policy.

The NYPD attempted to enter a memo into evidence on Wednesday that they say was sent to commanding officers this month, requiring cops who do stop-and-frisks to provide a detailed explanation for the stop, according to the *Guardian*.

Plaintiffs expressed incredulity over the memo, which their attorney said was only made available by city lawyers Tuesday night.

"Now, as we prepare to go to trial, this memo magically appears," said Darius Charney, an attorney for

the Center for Constitutional Rights.

CCR is objecting to the inclusion of the memo as evidence.

The memo states that officers filling out UF250s — the reports for stops — must include a narrative description of the stop.

Judge Shira Scheindlin, who is presiding over the bench trial, declined the city's request to enter the memo into evidence.

Hall is already expected to testify for the city.

Quoted

"The memo literally says what we've been asking for for 10 years."

DARIUS CHARNEY

 DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN
danielle.tcholakian@metro.us

Traffic deaths. Mayor blasts state leaders over speed cameras

Mayor Michael Bloomberg blasted state lawmakers for blocking a proposal to place speed-tracking cameras on streets, blaming them for the deaths of children killed by speeding cars.

The next time a child dies from a speeding car, "why don't you pick up the phone and call your state senator and ask why they allowed that child to be

killed," he said, according to *The New York Times*.

The mayor blamed Republican majority leader Dean Skelos and Brooklyn's Simcha Felder and Martin Golden.

Speed cameras were included in a package in the State Assembly but weren't included in the budget expected to be approved this week.

LAURA SHIN

Happy dog

Last Sandy dog adopted

Bruno, the rottweiler, the last dog at an emergency shelter for pets displaced by Hurricane Sandy has found a home with a Long Island couple, *Newsday* reported.

EVELYN CHENG

Unsolved crime

Woman dies after stabbing

A woman, 49, was found stabbed to death in the Bronx on Wednesday, police said.

No arrests have been made. The investigation is ongoing.

LAURA SHIN

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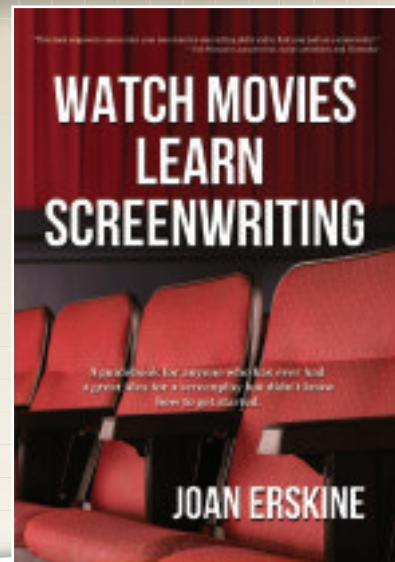
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Opinion

TOM FOREMAN

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR CNN



THE EMAIL TAX

Quoted

"So you can imagine my surprise to find political types circling more routinely around the idea of taxing the Internet as a key to ending our economic woes."



If all of humanity magically slips back into the Stone Age tonight, and I wake up as the sole soul with knowledge of future technologies, let me warn you that rebuilding is going to be a challenge. Despite having once held a subscription to Popular Mechanics and being reasonably handy with a Leatherman, I have no idea how to make steel, Tupperware or an adjustable recliner. Refrigerators and microwaves might as well be magic. And I don't know how the Internet functions, either. But I can tell you this: It's not because of the government.

So you can imagine my surprise to find political types circling more routinely around the idea of taxing the Internet as a key to ending our economic woes, as if it is an interstate highway we all need to pitch in on. In one official arena after another, the tide seems to be subtly shifting away from the "hands off" approach that

has heretofore greeted the notion of an Internet tax, and more toward "well, let's think about that."

Just this week, a New York court ruled that Internet companies can be compelled to collect sales tax for anything sold in that state, and the U.S. Senate followed suit by approving a non-binding Internet sales tax idea for all states. In Berkeley, Calif., a city councilman has lately been talking up taxing emails.

The notion is seductive. Governments coast to coast are strapped for money. People spend a lot of time on computers sending messages, buying

blouses and surfing for porn. Ergo, tack a tiny tax onto each bit of Internet traffic, let the pennies add up and watch the budget problems melt away.

To be fair, most lawmakers have so far steered pretty widely away from the concept, clearly fearful of the public and business backlash that could follow. But the mere fact that an Internet tax keeps coming up is a sign that it is no longer unthinkable. So enjoying your unlimited free messaging and surfing while you can. Because I suspect, eventually, the tax man will boot up a surprise.

Gun violence

Newtown school gunman fired 154 rounds in five minutes

The gunman who killed 20 children and six adults at a Connecticut elementary school fired 154 rounds in less than five minutes, selecting high-capacity magazines from a home arsenal stocked with swords.

knives and a cache of guns, officials said.

Investigators also found a newspaper clipping about a mass shooting in the home that Adam Lanza shared with his mother, along with a gun safe in his bedroom, receipts from shooting ranges and National Rifle Association certificates for both of them, according to court papers.

REUTERS

Show of force



Stealth bomber / GETTY IMAGES

US Stealth bombers fly over S Korea

The United States flew two Stealth bomber

practice runs over South Korea on Thursday after a B52 bomber made a similar run earlier this week amid rising tensions on the Korean peninsula.

The flights came after North Korea said it would attack American bases in the Pacific following a U.S.-led drive to impose sanctions on North Korea for its third nuclear weapons test.

REUTERS



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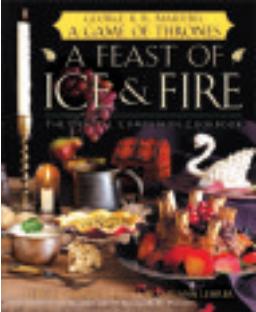
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Digging in to a feast of 'Thrones'



Lose the forks and eat this chicken with your hands, says Monroe-Cassel. / CONTRIBUTED

Food. HBO's "Game of Thrones" returns for Season 3 on Sunday. There's no better way to celebrate the epic fantasy novels and TV series than to host a medieval-themed dinner party.

1 The invite: "In a day and age where people just send out invites on Facebook or text, a physical invitation is incredibly important. Plus, having something mysteriously delivered to your doorstep is so much cooler than an online notification."

2 The dress code: "Request everyone come wearing a cloak (or a baggy coat). If you don't own one, wrap an old skirt around your shoulders and use a pin to clasp it around your neck."

3 The music: Go for MS MR — the pop duo's hauntingly beautiful song "Bones" is featured in the Season 3 trailer. Or break out The Hold Steady — the lyrics to their song "The Bear and the Maiden Fair" were actually written by Game of Thrones author George R.R. Martin. But as it won't be out in time for your party, we recommend you have their latest album, "Heaven is Whenever," on repeat.

The feast

Dig in

"People think medieval food is gross, but recipes that sound weird are delicious once made. ... Seeing an opulent spread of food is really satisfying. So once everything is ready, lay it all out on the table at once. The only course that should be saved for later is the dessert. Serve it once your guests have settled



Lay out your spread all at once, advises Monroe-Cassel.

CONTRIBUTED

down to watch the show in the lounge. Lastly, don't forget to quench your guests' thirst. Make

sure you have plenty of red wine and apple cider to get you through the night."

Recipe. The starter: Simple Dornish fare

Ingredients

- Hummus
- Pita bread
- Feta cheese
- Purple olives



"We haven't gotten to this in the show yet, but the Dornish have some of the best finger food. Take a platter and heap it with purple olives, flat

bread, hummus and feta cheese."

1 Place the hummus, and other goodies on a platter and serve.

Recipe. Main course: Honeyed chicken

Ingredients

- 1 whole chicken for roasting
- Olive oil
- Salt

Sauce:

- 1/2 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1/3 cup honey
- 1 tsp. fresh mint
- Small handful of raisins
- 2 or 3 tbsp. butter

"This is essentially just a roast chicken with a good sauce, but it's great because it's straight out of the halls of Winterfell. Plus, if you deny your guests silverware, they have to tear into it with their bare hands, and everything tastes better eaten that way."

1 Rub the chicken down with olive oil and salt. This will ensure the skin is ultra-crispy once cooked. Heat the oven at 450° F and leave to roast for approximately one hour.

2 In the meantime, combine all the ingredients for the sauce in a pan and

leave to simmer until the raisins look plump and the mixture thickens. Remove from the heat and when the chicken is done, coat it with the honey sauce.

Recipe. Dessert: Lemon cakes

Ingredients

- 3 tbsp. butter, softened
- 1/4 heaping cup sugar
- 3 egg yolks
- Zest from one lemon
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda dissolved
- 1/4 tsp. each salt, cloves and mace (similar to nutmeg)
- Pinch saffron
- 1 1/4 cup sifted all-purpose flour
- Juice from one lemon
- 1 tbsp. honey

1 Cream together the butter and sugar until smooth. Beat in the egg yolks. Blend in the baking soda, lemon zest, salt and spices. Stir in the flour and work until a ball of dough is formed. Knead gently until smooth.

2 Roll out the dough on a floured surface to a 1/4" thickness. With a floured butter knife, cut the dough into small squares. Place them on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.

3 Bake the cakes in a preheated 300° F oven for 15 minutes. Make sure they don't brown on the bottom. Place them

on a wire rack. While they are cooling, mix the lemon juice and honey together in a pan on the stove over low heat. Let cool slightly before brushing onto cakes.

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
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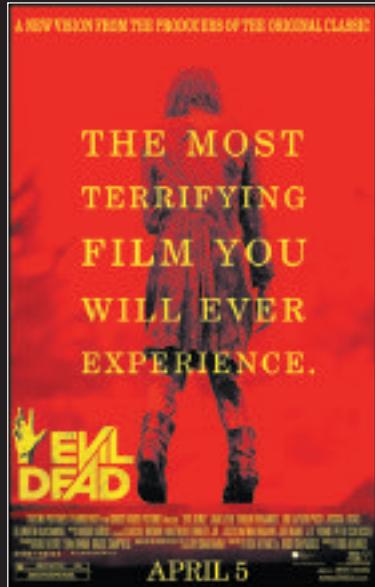


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They actually made another 'G.I. Joe' movie

Film. The new "G.I. Joe" installment boasts just a little bit of Channing Tatum but plenty of the Rock.

As with most long-running comic-book franchises, the "G.I. Joe" mythology is insanely complicated. Here's all you need to know to comprehend "G.I. Joe: Retaliation," the franchise's first sequel: At one point, a member of the good-guy squadron announces, "I'm the quicker blower-upper." Less an action movie than a catalog of artillery and explosions, it's too much of a drag to be dumb fun, but gun collectors and pyromaniacs might dig it.

The film takes off where the first left off, with the American president (Jonathan Pryce) having been replaced by Destro (also Pryce), a soldier serving the evil Cobra Commander (Luke Bracey) who's been made to look exactly like the commander-in-chief. All that's standing between Cobra and world domination is the G.I. Joe team, led by Roadblock (Dwayne Johnson at his most by-the-numbers). Other members include Flint (D.J. Cotrona, appropriately Rock-like), Lady Jaye (Adrienne Palicki, relentlessly ogled) and



Channing Tatum (left, next to Dwayne Johnson) is barely in "G.I. Joe: Retaliation." / JAIMIE TRUEBLOOD

Review

'G.I. Joe: Retaliation'

Director. Jon. M. Chu

Stars. Dwayne Johnson,
Adrienne Palicki

Rating. •••••

clear weapons. That mission is one the movie supports: up with guns and preemptive strikes, down with nuclear disarmament. Or does it? "There's only one person who could authorize a strike like that, and I voted for him," Roadblock says after the attack, and the team investigates what our latest white male movie president is up to. "What if the president ... isn't the president?", Lady Jaye wonders when she stumbles onto the truth. At such moments, "G.I. Joe: Retaliation" seems like a bizarre riff on Obama voters disappointed with their president's drone-strike policy.

Sometimes the movie

seems to be flirting with camp, as when the RZA shows up as a ninja master with the fastest beard ever and barks martial-arts lore. But mostly "G.I. Joe: Retaliation" is shockingly dull, with lots of incoherently shot carnage and lame wisecracks. (The worst offender on that front is Bruce Willis, who seems to destroy the goodwill he's accrued over the years.) There's one undeniably cool bit involving ziplining ninjas fighting it out on the mountains, but the film mostly presents undeniable silliness with a tedious poker face.

VADIM RIZOV
letters@metro.us

Film. 'Wrong' not as smart as that film about a killer tire

For a movie about a killer tire on the prowl, Quentin Dupieux's "Rubber" was surprisingly, almost unnecessarily, focused and smart. "Wrong," the French DJ-turned-auteur's follow-up, is classic sophomore slump: an unfocused mishmash, evidently the result of him emptying out notebooks filled with odd ideas that simply needed a home. Jack Plotnick plays Dolph, an unusually sour

everyman who awakens one day to a missing dog. Suddenly, life goes awry in random, absurdist ways. Some gags (clocks that read "6:60" rather than "7:00") are amusing, some (William Fichtner's wacky accented guru, who preaches about man-dog telepathy) less so, and once one adjusts expectations to low can its sporadic charms be properly enjoyed.

MATT PRIGGE



Jack Plotnick plays a harried everyman in "Wrong."

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Max Irons and Saoirse Ronan share a sensitive moment in "The Host," based on the Stephenie Meyer novel. / ALAN MARKFIELD

Teenage girls seriously read this silliness?

Film. The first non-“Twilight” Stephenie Meyer film is just as bizarre as the other ones.

The works of Stephenie Meyer are written off, and not unfairly, as moony junk. But they’re weird. The “Twilight” novels take a turn for biological rebellion that would nauseate even David Cronenberg. One day semioticians will have a field day with Meyer’s “The Host,” which features a young teen’s lust literally suppressed, plus physical abuse and even a scene where our heroine begs her beloved to cut her.

The talented Saoirse Ronan (“Atonement”) plays Melanie, a fierce teen captured during an alien invasion by glow-

ing cartoon octopi things. But her “soul” — named Wanderer — proves conveniently nice and weak-willed. Melanie can talk to her parasite, and guilt-trips her into escape.

Most of “The Host” winds up taking place at a socialist commune, led by Melanie’s benevolent hippie dictator uncle (William Hurt), in a pimped-out cave that looks like the inside of an amusement-park dark ride. A dye-blond Aryan villain (Diane Kruger) obsessed with capturing Melanie/Wanderer provides a little bit of drive, but as with “Twilight,” most of the screentime is eaten up by mutual emo staring. The cave is populated by three bed-headed rent-a-hunks; good luck telling them apart. One is Melanie’s old flame and another gets really into Wanderer, yielding not a love triangle but a love square.

But sex, as in all of Mey-

Review

‘The Host’

Director. Andrew Niccol

Stars. Saoirse Ronan, Diane Kruger

Rating. PG-13

Grade. • • • •

er’s works, is bad, and the few kisses (no tongue) lead to creepy violence. The real love, though, winds up being between host and parasite, which is original. Questionable but overqualified director Andrew Niccol (writer of “The Truman Show”) and Ronan give this more dedication than it deserves, but the film is irrepressibly nuts.

MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

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The Company in *A vueltas con los ochoenta* © Paula Lobo

He's between a Rock and a hard place

Film. Dwayne Johnson, star of "G.I. Joe: Retaliation," gives us his idea of other film series he could take over.

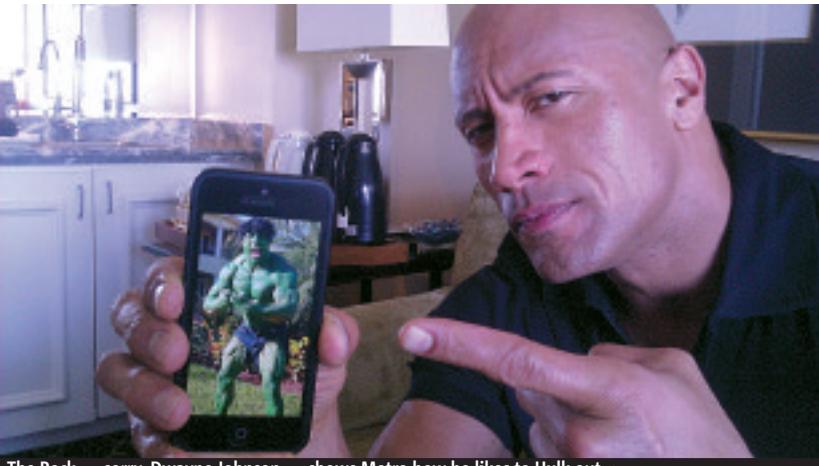
The last time we spoke to Dwayne Johnson — aka The Rock — he said he'd earned the nickname "Franchise Viagra" because of his knack for injecting energy into lagging movie properties like the "Fast and Furious" and "Journey to the Center of the Earth" series. He's at it again with "G.I. Joe: Retaliation," the first sequel in the franchise, in which he grabs the alpha position from Channing Tatum to lead America's coolest covert military force. So we thought we'd see how Johnson could be deployed for other famous franchises — some struggling, some not.

To our delight, he gave the assignment a lot of thought.

"You've got to give it thought because all these franchises are so beloved, and all of them have their own built-in mythology and affinity that's global, which makes it very special," Johnson says. "And it reminds me of when we were kids, how cool and fun big Hollywood movies can be."

With that in mind, here are his ideas:

"Star Wars": "What is the cross between a Sith and a Jedi? I don't know. Is there something in between that has a bit more neutrality, who vacillates between both sides? Kind of like a gray area, possibly. Being such a big fan of 'Star Wars' and the mythology of 'Star Wars,' my inner boy, my inner geek — which is a big geek, by the way — embodies both sides. So back when I was 8 years old I was both. And I don't know what that's called. What would



The Rock — sorry, Dwayne Johnson — shows Metro how he likes to Hulk out. / NED EHRBAR

One more thing

'Indiana Jones'

The "Indiana Jones" franchise made room for Shia LaBeouf, why not the star of "Tooth Fairy"?

"That's tough. I love George Lucas, obviously. I love Harrison [Ford]. OK, I hunt him down.

I hunt Indiana Jones down. When I hunt him down, there's a plot twist in there somehow where I then become the hero. [Laughs] And I share the hero mantle of 'Indiana Jones' with Harrison Ford. Yes. Because of my 8-year-old inner geek."

that be?"

"Star Trek": "My gut tells me we would have to create a character that puts not only the Enterprise but the entire [Federation] at risk in terms of destruction by one man. That's where I feel like we should go with that. And I love 'Star Trek,' by the way, but it feels like that. That's heavy, right?"

"Twilight": "All hy-

pothetical, right? All hypothetical. Because this is not now saying that the Rock wants to be in 'Twilight.' [Laughs] In steps the most manliest, toughest son-of-a-bitch of a vampire the world has ever seen. He grabs Kristen Stewart, pushes aside Pattinson and quietly yet firmly says, 'We are now doing away with our boyhood ways.' Hypothetically."

"American Pie": "Wow. Wow, I would say ... I have no idea where I would fit in that. No clue, no clue."

"The Avengers": "I got it. I'm going to show you something right now. [See picture, left.] It is a great question to end on, because I have been thinking about this for some time. Sometimes there are moments in life where there are no words. This is one of those moments."



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CITY OF NEW YORK 2012-2013 DISTRICTING COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PRECLEARANCE SUBMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY GENERAL

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT on March 22, 2013, in accordance with Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, 42 U.S.C. 1973c, and 28 C.F.R. § 51.10(b), covering the counties of Bronx, Kings and New York, the City of New York 2012-2013 Districting Commission (the "Districting Commission") submitted to the Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, the Districting Commission's final plan for the boundaries of the fifty-one City Council districts in the City of New York (the "submission").

A complete duplicate copy of the submission is available for public inspection at the office of the Districting Commission at 253 Broadway, 7th Floor in the borough of Manhattan. A complete copy of the submission is also available on the Districting Commission's website at <http://www.nyc.gov/districting>, where it can be automatically translated into over 50 languages.

The Districting Commission invites members of the public to review the submission and to provide comments for the Attorney General's consideration as this request for preclearance is being considered. Any such comments may be forwarded to: Mr. Chris Herren, Chief, Voting Section, Civil Rights Division, Room 7254 - NWB, Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20530.

Please take further notice that, in order to permit timely implementation of the final districting plan in advance of the City Council's upcoming primary and general elections, the Districting Commission has requested that a decision on preclearance be issued on an expedited basis pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 51.34.

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Toni Colette reunites with her "Muriel's Wedding" director for "Mental." / MENTAL HOLDINGS PTY LTD

Don't crash this 'Wedding' reunion

It's been two decades since Toni Colette and director P.J. Hogan broke through together with the ABBA-drenched "Muriel's Wedding." Their reunion accentuates a miserable family whose apathetic patriarch, unwilling to tend to his five kids while Mom's in the nuthouse, picks up a woman off the streets to play nanny. She's Shaz (Colette), a sassy, tell-it-like-it-is drifter who smokes rollies, carries a knife in her boot and

Review

'Mental'

Director. P.J. Hogan

Stars. Toni Colette, Liev Schreiber

Rating. R

Grade. • • • • •

totes around a belligerent pit bull. Colette is a peerless actress, and she does her best to slip humanity into a character who's less a pot-smoking Mary Poppins than Poochie from "The Simpsons." Like its protagonist, "Mental" is consistently and to a fault wired, and so distracted by its ill-considered "anti-heroine" that it fails to notice that Liev Schreiber's grizzled shark enthusiast needs more screentime.

MATT PRIGGE

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What exactly is 'The Shining'?

Film. The documentary "Room 237" delves into five conspiracy theories about Stanley Kubrick's "The Shining."

In Rodney Ascher's feature debut, five conspiracy theorists present their readings on Stanley Kubrick's "The Shining." The first is the most credible. Bill Blakemore says "The Shining" is actually about the genocide of Native Americans by colonial settlers, and he's got enough evidence to make that reading plausible. Jay Weidner's theory is the most self-evidently off. His argument is impeccable, but the point he's making is just wrong. He claims Kubrick staged Neil Armstrong's moon landing and then felt guilty about it. Other logical chains, while less self-evidently off-base, build disconnected shots and continuity errors into full-fledged interpretations, assuming mistakes were literally impossible for Kubrick to make. All of the people speaking have intricate theories and flawless reasoning, but the nuttier examples argue to-



Stanley Kubrick's "The Shining" is examined in "Room 237."

IFC MIDNIGHT

Review

'Room 237'

Director. Rodney Ascher

Genre. Documentary

Rating. NR

Grade. • • • • •

ward conclusions that are impossible. "Room 237" demonstrates by example that overinterpretation, even if misguided, is more fun than passive viewing, making an argument for engagement and never getting lazy.

VADIM RIZOV
letters@metro.us

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A real hero, a real human being



Ryan Gosling has a tender moment in "The Place Beyond the Pines." / ATSUSHI NISHIJIMA

Gosling! BCoop! Sins-of-the-father drama! Face tattoos!

Derek Cianfrance is a great director, or at least he acts like one. The follow-up to the break-up saga "Blue Valentine," "The Place Beyond the Pines" is a sins-of-the-father epic told as a triptych, which also casts two of right now's hottest actors (Ryan Gosling and Bradley Cooper) only for them to share no more than a single shot. Cian-

france is like that — he rubs your face in dirt and truth and his own brilliance. It's almost annoying that his films periodically get there, despite himself.

In "Pines," Gosling is decked out in tats, including a bloody black dagger dangling off his left eye. To reveal exactly how his carnival motorcycle racer relates to Cooper's troubled,

nice-guy cop — much less saying anything about the film's third section, set 15 years later — would be cruel. The narrative's unpredictability is — after its acting — "Pine's" strongest suit.

Once it becomes apparent where "Pines" is heading, the picture deflates, feeling small where it once felt expansive.

Film. Someone named Ryan Gosling talks about "The Place Beyond the Pines," memes and the shame of face tattoos.

Yes, Ryan Gosling is aware of the "Hey girl" meme. When the subject is bravely broached, the already quiet actor smiles and squirms in his chair. "Remember when Fabio was on that roller coaster and he got hit in the face by a pigeon?" he jokes. "I kind of feel like that pigeon lately. Wrong place, wrong time."

Gosling is bit more open when talking about his new film, "The Place Beyond the Pines," his second for director Derek Cianfrance. "We were making 'Blue Valentine,'" he remembers, "and I had this cockamamie theory that I could rob a bank and get away with it. I wasn't so afraid of jail. He said that was crazy, that he had just written a movie about that."

In "The Place Beyond the Pines," Gosling plays Luke, a carnival motorcycle racer who eventually

ally becomes a bank robber. Not that he dove too deeply into his character. "There's not much going on inside of Luke. He's a pretty surface-level person who is faced with his own lack of depth. I tried not to think too much," he says. The film's scope proves far larger than it initially seems, but Gosling tried to stay in the moment. "I

try not to have a preconceived idea or think too much about the themes in Derek's films. He wants a certain level of naturalism and not pre-planned feelings and responses."

The realism extended to the tiniest detail, including the tattoos. "We wanted to make the tattoos look a mess, from someone who lived a life of not thinking things through and making bad decisions," he says. He also has a small dagger tattoo hanging off his left eye. Ultimately having a mark on his face helped his performance. "I didn't even want to look at myself in the mirror. When I was holding Tony Pizza, the kid who plays our child, I just felt ashamed this person I created was his father."

To stress authenticity, Cianfrance shot much of the film in long takes and had Gosling rob a bank populated by the actual staff and customers. That could backfire. "I'd look down and everyone's smiling and has their cell phones out, having a good time," he says. "Derek was blaming me, saying I wasn't scary enough."

MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

Quoted

"I really just like working with Steve Carell. I'd like to do that again. I'd like to do more comedies. Drama is so subjective. Comedy is funny or it's not. There's something about that; they laugh or they don't. It's easier to tell if it's working or not. When you do drama, it's dissipates out into the ether and you never know if it's resonating." Ryan Gosling, on doing more comedies



Here are two more famous faces, Eva Mendes and Bradley Cooper, in "The Place Beyond the Pines." / ATSUSHI NISHIJIMA

Review

'The Place Beyond the Pines'

Director. Derek Cianfrance

Stars. Ryan Gosling, Bradley Cooper

Rating. R



sive. But journey ought to trump destination, and "Pines" is caught up like few others in the detours and mistakes and sharp right turns of characters' lives. Throughout Gosling and Cooper each try something, fail, try some-

thing else, fail at that, and so forth. Success, when it comes, is transitory and ill-earned. Even robbing banks only leads to drinking terrible beer.

Cianfrance's direction is even heavier than in "Blue Valentine," with

long takes and follow shots, but less prone to shouting and also goofier. Call Cianfrance humorless, but few mega-dramas have been scored by *No More's* basically insane synth doodler Mike Patton. **MATT PRIGGE**

Film Society Lincoln Center - Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center
212-875-5600
144 West 65th Street Between Broadway + Amsterdam Avenues
FROM UP ON POPPY HILL (KOKURIKOZAKA KARA) (PG) 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20
THE ILLUSIONIST (L'ILLUSIONNISTE) (PG) Sat and Sun 2:00
ROOM 237 (NR) Fri 11:45, 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 9:15; Sat 11:15-1:30-4:15-6:30-9:15; Sun 11:45-2:00-4:15-6:30-9:15.
THE SHINING (R) Fri 11:59

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Lincoln Center & W. 65th St.
THE INTERVAL (L'INTERVALLO) (NR) Fri 6:15
JARDS (NR) Fri 9:00
ND/NF SHORTS PROGRAM 2 Sun 4:00
ND/NF SHORTS PROGRAM 3 Sat 3:30
OUR NIXON (NR) Sun 7:00, 9:30
PEOPLE'S PARK (RENMIN GONGYUAN) (NR) Sat 6:00
STORIES WE TELL (PG-13) Sat 12:30
TOWHEADS (NR) Sat 8:30

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42nd Street Between 7th and 8th Avenues
21 AND OVER (R) Fri and Sat 12:05, 2:45, 5:25, 8:05. Digital Presentation; Sun 12:05-11:30. Digital Presentation
ADMISSION (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:00, 12:20, 1:50, 3:05, 4:35, 5:50, 7:20, 8:35, 11:30. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:00-11:30-1:10-1:50-2:20-4:00-4:40-5:10-7:00-7:30-8:15-10:00-10:20-11:10. Digital Presentation

THE HOST (PG-13) Fri 10:20, 11:00, 11:30, 1:10, 1:50, 2:20, 4:00, 4:40, 5:10, 7:00, 7:45, 8:15, 10:00, 10:35, 11:10. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:20-11:00-11:30-1:10-1:50-2:20-4:00-4:40-5:10-7:00-7:30-8:15-10:00-10:20-11:10. Digital Presentation
THE INCREDIBLE BURT WONDERSTONE (PG-13) 10:35, 4:35. Digital Presentation
OLYMPUS HAS FALLEN (R) 11:40, 2:35, 5:20, 8:15, 11:00. Digital Presentation
OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL (PG) 1:00, 7:00. Digital Presentation
THE GREAT AND POWERFUL IN 3D (PG) 10:00, 4:00, 10:00. RealD 3D
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) 10:55, 1:50, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10. Digital Presentation
SPRING BREAKERS (R) 11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:40. C INDEPENDENT; Digital Presentation
HIMMATWALA (NR) Fri and Sat 10:40, 2:00, 5:20, 8:40, 12:05.C INDEPENDENT; Digital Presentation; Sun 10:40-2:00-5:20-8:40.C INDEPENDENT; Digital Presentation
TYLER PERRY'S TEMPTATION (PG-13) 11:20, 1:55, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30. Digital Presentation

Regal Union Square Stadium 14
800-326-3264 628
13th & Broadway
ADMISSION (PG-13) 11:05, 1:15, 4:35, 7:30, 10:05, 12:30
THE CROODS (PG) 11:20, 1:45, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 11:50. RealD 3D
THE CROODS (PG) 10:00, 12:20, 2:45, 5:30, 8:00, 10:40
G.I. JOE: RETALIATION (PG-13) 10:30, 12:10, 3:00, 5:40, 8:20, 11:00
G.I. JOE: RETALIATION 3D (PG-13) 11:10, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00, 12:40. RealD 3D
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) Fri and Sat 10:05, 1:10, 4:25. RealD 3D; Sun 10:05-1:10-4:25-7:30-10:35. RealD 3D
THE HOST (PG-13) 11:00, 12:05, 1:50, 5:50, 7:40, 10:30, 11:35
OLYMPUS HAS FALLEN (R) 11:40, 1:10, 2:30, 4:00, 5:20, 7:10, 8:10, 9:50, 10:50, 12:35
OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL (PG) 12:00, 3:20, 6:20, 9:45
OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL IN 3D (PG) 10:10, 1:00, 4:20, 7:35, 10:45. RealD 3D
SIDE EFFECTS (R) 3:10, 8:45
SPRING BREAKERS (R) 11:50, 12:50, 2:40, 3:40, 5:10, 6:10, 7:50, 8:50, 10:10, 11:30
TYLER PERRY'S TEMPTATION (PG-13) 11:30, 2:10, 5:00, 7:45, 10:35, 12:25

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312 W. 34th St.; between 8th and 9th Avenues
THE CROODS (R) 10:50, 1:25, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:15. Digital Presentation
THE CROODS 3D (PG) 1:45, 6:50. RealD 3D
THE CROODS (PG) 11:10, 3:20, 4:15, 9:25. Digital Presentation
G.I. JOE: RETALIATION (PG-13) 10:40, 1:20, 4:00, 6:40, 8:00, 8:55, 9:25, 11:45. Digital Presentation
G.I. JOE: RETALIATION 3D (PG-13) 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20. RealD 3D
G.I. JOE: RETALIATION AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG) Fri 10:00, 1:10, 4:30, 7:45, 11:00. IMAX; Sat 1:10-4:30-7:45-11:00. IMAX; Sun 10:00-1:10-4:30-7:45-11:00. IMAX
SIDE EFFECTS (R) 10:50, 4:40, 10:30. Digital Presentation
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) 1:35, 7:25. Digital Presentation
SPRING BREAKERS (R) Fri and Sat 11:45, 1:15, 2:30, 3:45, 5:00, 6:15, 7:30, 8:45, 10:00, 11:20, 12:30.C INDEPENDENT; Digital Presentation; Sun 11:45-1:15-2:30-3:45-5:00-6:15-7:30-8:45-10:00-11:20.C INDEPENDENT; Digital Presentation

TYLER PERRY'S TEMPTATION (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:00, 10:30, 11:20, 12:00, 12:40, 1:25, 2:10, 2:50, 3:30, 4:15, 5:05, 5:40, 6:20, 7:05, 7:55, 8:30, 9:10, 9:55, 10:45, 11:25, 12:00, 12:45. Digital Presentation

THE INCREDIBLE BURT WONDERSTONE (PG-13) 10:45, 1:15, 2:30, 3:45, 5:00, 6:15, 7:30, 8:45, 10:00-11:20.C INDEPENDENT; Digital Presentation
TYLER PERRY'S TEMPTATION (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:00, 10:30, 11:20, 12:00, 12:40, 1:25, 2:10, 2:50, 3:30, 4:15, 5:05, 5:40, 6:20, 7:05, 7:55, 8:30, 9:10, 9:55, 10:45, 11:25, 12:00, 12:45. Digital Presentation

Regal Battery Park Stadium 11
800-326-3264 629
102 North End Avenue - Vesey & West Street
G.I. JOE: RETALIATION (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:00, 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 10:50, 1:35, 6:30, 11:35. Digital Presentation

OLYMPUS HAS FALLEN (R) 10:10, 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 10:00. Digital Presentation
OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL (PG) 10:00, 4:10, 10:10. Digital Presentation
OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL IN 3D (PG) 11:50, 1:00, 7:10. RealD 3D
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) 11:20, 5:00. Digital Presentation
SNITCH (PG-13) 2:15, 10:40. Digital Presentation
SPRING BREAKERS (R) 10:20, 12:50, 6:05, 8:30, 10:55.C INDEPENDENT; Digital Presentation
TYLER PERRY'S TEMPTATION (PG-13) 9:40, 11:00, 12:15, 1:40, 3:00, 4:20, 5:40, 7:00, 8:20, 9:50, 11:00. Digital Presentation

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Corner of 31st Street and 2nd Avenue
ADMISSION (PG-13) 10:30, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00. Digital Presentation
THE CALL (R) 10:40, 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:15, 10:35. Digital Presentation
THE CROODS (PG) 12:50, 5:40. RealD 3D
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102 North End Avenue - Vesey & West Street
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OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL (PG) 10:00, 4:10, 10:10. Digital Presentation
OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL IN 3D (PG) 11:50, 1:00, 7:10. RealD 3D
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) 11:20, 5:00. Digital Presentation
SNITCH (PG-13) 2:15, 10:40. Digital Presentation
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THE CALL (R) Fri and Sat 10:10, 12:40, 3:10, 5

1 More on Kardashian's maternity wear

In a recent blog post, Kim Kardashian defended her choice of wearing tight clothing while pregnant, writing, "I feel my best when I am in heels and chic clothes!" Which may be true,



Kim Kardashian is no fan of maternity wear. / ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

2 Lovato returns to 'The X Factor'

Although departing judges L.A. Reid and Britney Spears won't be back for the upcoming third season of "The



X Factor," it looks like Demi Lovato has signed on the dotted line to team up once again with Simon Cowell. "I couldn't be happier that Demi wants to come back this year," blurbs Simon Cowell in a statement by Fox on Thursday. "She's a superstar in her own right and was a fantastic mentor last year. Even though she can be really, really annoying — I truly enjoyed working with her and so did the artists."

— JONATHAN HILL/FOX

but in the case of this outfit, which was photographed on Wednesday in New York City, it's not the size that's off — it's the fact that it looks like someone went way too crazy with a BeDazzler.

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson's take on the world of gossip

DOROTHY ROBINSON
@dorothyatmetro
dorothy.robinson@metro.us



3 People can't stop with 'The Hammaconda'

If Jon Hamm has been peeved about all the attention his groin has been getting lately, he's probably not going to like this. Underwear company Jockey is stepping up to help out after reports that Hamm was

advised to stop going commando on the "Mad Men" set. "Jockey would like to offer our support for Jon Hamm in the form of a lifetime supply of Jockey underwear," a rep for the company says in a statement.

4 Angelina Jolie dons a ring

Angelina Jolie turned heads on her return to Los Angeles this week with a gold band on her finger in place of her engagement ring, fueling speculation that she and Brad Pitt have secretly tied the knot. But according to the woman herself, that's not the case. When asked directly by a photographer at LAX if the item is in fact a wedding ring, Jolie responded, "No, it's not," according to TMZ. And there you have it.



5 Meet 'chihuahua Jennifer'

Jennifer Lawrence gets a lot of points for her carefree attitude on the red carpet, but the Oscar winner insists she's anything but in those situations. "I'm afraid I'm going to go my whole life being scared like a chihuahua" on red carpets, she tells *Fabulous* magazine. "It's not my comfort zone. Making movies is where I belong. I shouldn't be heard just talking. So, when I'm doing movies, I'm really happy. That's where I'm comfortable, that's my home. When you put me on a red carpet or on a stage, I turn into chihuahua Jennifer."



She's had platinum-selling records, a hit TV show and numerous film roles, but it's the chance to star in a Tyler Perry movie that has Brandy Norwood most excited. Metro caught up with the star of Perry's "Temptation" to talk about that chance, as well as what it is that makes Perry's movies so incredibly popular.

After living the Tyler Perry filmmaking experience, what do you think it is that makes him such a buzzed-about filmmaker?

I think it's his heart, spirit and honesty. I think he's relatable, and it just feels like he's hung out in all of these areas and hoods. Every one of his films, you feel like you know a person like the characters in your life. I think that's what makes him so powerful. On top of that, he's so humble, down to earth and appreciative for everything that he has accomplished. He's not afraid to give that back and to help others. He opens the door for so many people, and I'm one of them.

What does it mean to you personally to be in a Tyler Perry movie?

Personally, it's everything because I'm a fan. I started off watching the plays on



BRANDY FALLS PREY TO TYLER PERRY'S 'TEMPTATION'

The successful singer and TV star teams up with Tyler Perry for a cautionary tale that's more grown up than his usual Madea-led fare.

DVD. So it's a dream come true to be in a movie that he's directing, a movie that he's written, and then to be a part of something so powerful. It's a blessing.

You mentioned how powerful the film is, but what struck you the most when you first read it?

It was the subject matter. I felt like so many people

have these battles in their relationships and not following that inner voice — that intuition that's telling you, "No!" It's that battle of the mind over the heart. The mind is telling you, "You shouldn't do this." Also, people get confused what running is instead of what confronting is. Sometimes people feel like when you run

away from your past or when you run away from the things that you don't want to face, you're being strong or you're being brave. You're not. You're being a coward. It touches on that, especially with my character.

You've been successful in music, TV and film. Does each provide a different

kind of creative juice to you?

It does, and they're all different. Music, for me, is me. It's the way that I can express my being. It's very personal to me, and also it's a way that I can relate to other people as well. People don't want to feel like they're all by themselves, and that's what my music does for

me and that's what it does for other people. But with acting, I get a chance to challenge myself, to bring honesty and truth to someone completely different than me. That's very difficult to do. I love the challenge of that.

JOEL AMOS
joel.amos@metro.lu



"Game of Thrones" returns to much fanfare Sunday. / MIKE SWEENEY

Ovation

day, 9 p.m., HBO

Drama

Reality

'Game of Thrones'

Non-fans, get ready to be baffled by overheard plot synopses every Monday. Season premiere, Sun-

'Finding Bigfoot'

Spoiler alert: Bigfoot remains unfound. Season finale, Sunday, 10 p.m., Animal Planet
NATALIE SHURE

TV watch list

COMEDY

MINISERIES

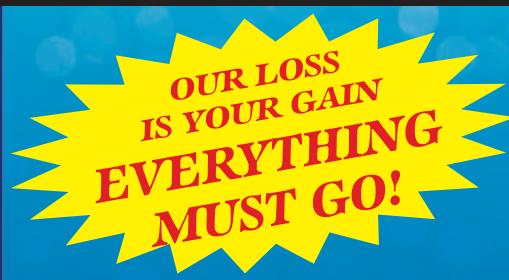
'Ben-Hur'

Finally, an incarnation of the 1880 novel that is both longer and worse than the classic 1959 Best Picture winner. Series premiere, Sunday, 8 p.m.,

'The Nerdist'

This funny, engaging podcast-turned-talk show returns for a second season with a bevy of big-name guests. Season premiere, Saturday, 10 p.m., BBC America

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How you doin', Wendy?

Television. The talk-show host sits down with us.

Wendy Williams opens the door to her dressing room wearing fuzzy green frog slippers. She takes a seat on her couch, which is adorned with a plush pink throw pillow. Despite the girliness of the room, Williams — hanging loose post-show in a wavy blonde wig — has a serious business side to her. It's to be expected from the mogul, whose syndicated daytime talk show has been renewed through 2014 on FOX and is airing new episodes in June and July (most daytime talk shows go on a summer hiatus).

All of this television success was never the original plan for Williams, who built her career in radio and as a young woman thought she'd be a newscaster. But the life of a newscaster, Williams soon discovered, wasn't what she really had in mind.

"You've got to live a

newscaster's lifestyle," she says. "You've got to be married to the right guy, have the right hairstyle, your nails have got to be a particular length, you cannot be seen having fun. That's not fair, but it's the way newscasting is, so I said I'm gonna go with this radio thing. Once I got on the radio I was sideswiped by it and I never looked back."

Williams attributes the success of her show to her producing staff and also her TMI personality. "One of the fatal flaws of my personality that my parents would attest to is, 'You've given too much information. Everybody didn't need to know that Aunt Florence is wearing a wig and she's in the bathroom readjusting,'" she says. "I think people feel comfortable with people that they get to know long enough."

Williams says one her missions as a talk-show host is to make her guests comfortable.

"When people walk through the double doors and you see my whole colorful crowd ... it can take



"The Wendy Williams Show" airs weekdays on 10 a.m. on FOX 5 and 3 p.m. on MY 9.
KARL GIANT FOR "THE WENDY WILLIAMS SHOW"

Quoted

"When people walk through the double doors and you see my whole colorful crowd ... it can take you back, even as a trained actor. And then you're being hugged by a 6-foot-5 black woman with a lot of hair and a lot of boob — it's a lot!"

Wendy Williams

you back, even as a trained actor. And then you're being hugged by a 6-foot-5 black woman with a lot of hair and a lot of boob — it's a lot! So my producers [do pre-interviews and] give me all I need to know, and then I go out there and make people feel as warm as I possibly can, because the goal of me as a host is to keep you coming back for more."



MEREDITH ENGEL

meredith.engel@metro.us

Wondering what to do with Easter egg leftovers? Dessert!

Recipe. Don't throw the battered mix of whites and yolks down the drain. Chef Mario Batali tells us how to make the most of the leftover goo.

Chilled Zabaglione with Raspberries and Amaretti

Recipe courtesy of Molto Batali (ecco, 2011)

Cool, creamy and not too sweet, this is my favorite version of the classic Sicilian dessert that is often served in

old-time "red sauce" Italian restaurants all over the United States. You can serve this with any fruit, or even as a decadent side dollop to a fine pie instead of whipped cream.

1 Put a mixing bowl in the fridge to chill it.

2 Fit a heat-proof bowl over a saucepan of barely simmering water, making sure the bottom of the bowl does not touch the water. (Or alternatively, use a double boiler.)

3 Place the egg yolks, sugar and Marsala into the heat-proof bowl, and whisk together well. Using an electric mixer, beat the mixture until it is pale and thick — about tripled in volume and happily frothy.

Ingredients

- 8 large egg yolks, at room temperature
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup dry marsala or sherry
- 1 1/2 cups heavy cream, chilled
- 2 pints fresh raspberries
- 8 to 10 amaretti cookies

(This could take up to 10 minutes. Be careful not to let the water boil beneath the bowl; it should stay at a high simmer.)

4 Remove the bowl from its pan of simmering water, and place it on a cold surface or stand it in a pan of cold water. Whisk constantly until the mixture is cool, and then set it aside.

5 In the chilled mixing bowl, whip the cream until it reaches firm peaks. Fold about a third of the whipped cream into the egg mixture to lighten it. Then gently fold in the rest of the whipped cream. (The zabaglione can be made up to four hours in advance of serving and refrigerated. Remove it from the refrigerator 20 minutes before serving to allow it to soften and come to a cool temperature, around 50 degrees F.)

6 Divide the raspberries among eight to ten old-style champagne coupes or large wineglasses. Spoon the zabaglione over the raspberries, and crumble an amaretti cookie over each serving. Serve immediately.

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
romina.mcguinness@metro.us



Repurpose your eggs this Easter.
COURTESY OF MOLTO BATALI (ECCO 2011)

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. It won't be an absence of good ideas that could bog you down. Your problems are likely to come from the way you try to implement them.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Even though you'll have the ability to gain ground on an endeavor, if you let your guard down you're likely to lose a little in the end.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. Associate with friends who appreciate material things much as you do. Pals who are far too loose could

trigger extravagance.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. Your judgment in career matters is quite astute, yet there's a chance you could suddenly change your plans and not follow through.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Unfortunately, not everyone you encounter can be taken seriously. If you're smart, you'll keep your guard up.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Although at times you can be a very generous person, this might not be the case today.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Be as diplomatic as you can, especially if you're trying to get others to endorse a difficult position.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. Devote your time to persons who truly are in need of your help and expertise, not to those who are capable of making it on their own.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. If it becomes necessary for you to seek advice from a trusted counselor, be sure to impart the whole situation.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan. 20. Your industrious efforts are likely to count for little if you work at such a speed that you fail to see what you're missing.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb. 18. Proposals might sound good and even look great on paper, but don't jump on board with them without first checking things out.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. Do not make a commitment that you know is likely to collapse in a heartbeat.

Letters

Ask and you shall receive

Thank you, Metro, for changing it back to a smaller crossword and BOTH Sudokus. Now both puzzle players are happy (hopefully).

PAT MCKENZIE, VIA EMAIL

Thanks for returning to the tried and true format of TWO Sudokus. Thanks to my smartphone, I get enough snippets of news and gaudy ads — but a man needs his brainteasers! Besides, with only one Sudoku, I was often left in a rotten mood if the difficulty level was hard. So thanks for brightening my mornings! **ADAM**

HSHAUGHNESSY, VIA EMAIL

In my opinion, both recent responses to an original letter about courtesy on the subway miss the point. Any time a woman points out genuine rudeness, the accusations of wanting special treatment are trotted out when the point is that politeness should not be "special" at all. Instead of saying that women should have to fight for subway seats, why not encourage everyone to be more considerate of other passengers? I'm not saying to always give your seat up, just that squabbling over a few square inches of hard plastic like it's the Iron Throne of Westeros is a bit pathetic. The solution is to say everyone needs to be more considerate of others, NOT to tell women "everyone has to fight, get over it." Equality should not be a race to the bottom.

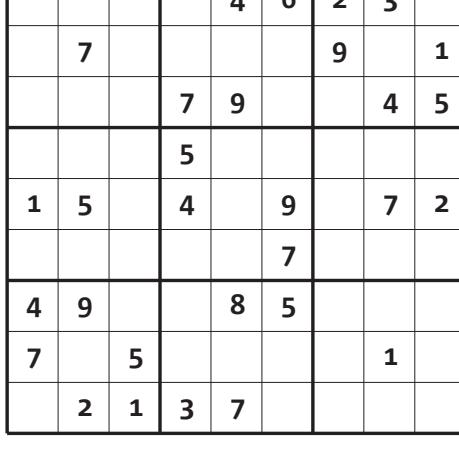
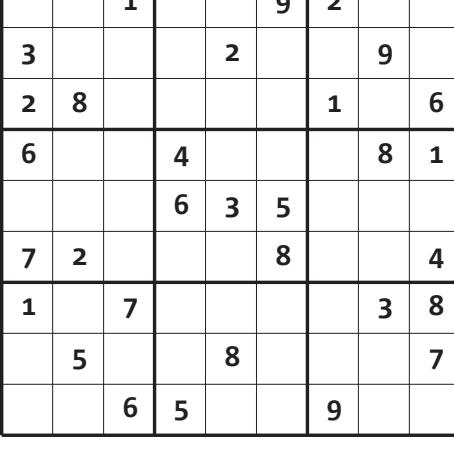
RACHEL GOGGIN, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them a brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Seat sexism misses point

Re: "Take a moment of silence for chivalry" (Metro, March 27)

Sudoku: Easy and hard

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

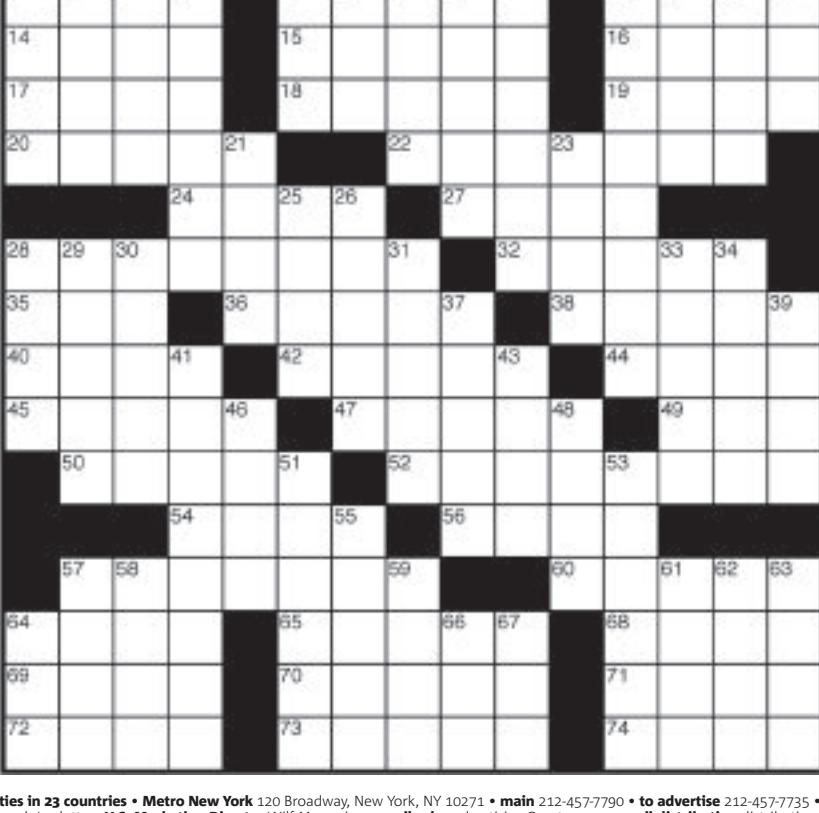
Crossword

Across
1 Pillow cover
5 Alps' Mont —
10 Cellar, briefly
14 Bread for a gyro
15 Keep happening
16 Lotion additive
17 "The X-Files" topic
18 In a strange way
19 Twelve, maybe
20 Trekkie idol
22 Hit it off
24 "Sister Act" roles
27 Stuck-up person
28 Brushing off
32 Type of varnish
35 Give assistance to
36 Hot coffee hazard
38 Fang
40 Remnant
42 "En garde" weapons
44 Type of socks
45 Elite Navy divers
47 Buffalo hockey pro
49 Cassius Clay
50 Divide the pie
52 Mumbler
54 — Raton, Florida
56 Savoir-faire
57 Less obvious
60 Mate, informally
64 Funny story

65 Video game pioneer
68 Give out sparingly
69 Pamplona shouts
70 Atahualpa subject
71 Sagan's "The Dragons of —"
72 Course finale
73 Did a lawn chore
74 Works as a tailor

Down

1 Made cloth
2 Stereo system (hyph.)
3 Lepton locale
4 Brickworkers
5 Pal
6 Was in front
7 "Who Made Who" rockers
8 Declares invalid
9 Weeping
10 Saver's document of yore
11 —-eyed
12 Kind of ring
13 Gymnast's goal
21 Hearty laughs
23 Mare's offspring
25 Congenial
26 Breaks like a twig
28 Crumples up
29 Adds to staff
30 Consummate
31 Faint flicker
33 Echolocation

Thursday's answer

3

SPORTS



Aaron Rodgers is reportedly close to signing a mega-money deal with the Packers. The 29-year-old former MVP quarterback is under contract through 2014, but an extension could add on something in the neighborhood of Joe Flacco's recent six-year deal. ESPN reports it could be worth as much as \$25 million per year.

Talented talker



Osi Umenyiora
GETTY IMAGES

Umenyiora takes shot at Giants

There's no love lost between the Giants and a former disgruntled star.

Former Giants defensive end Osi Umenyiora took a shot at his former team after signing with the Falcons on Thursday. Umenyiora, who the Giants never seriously considered re-signing, agreed to a two-year, \$8.5 million deal.

"This team is the most talented team I've seen in my life, probably," Umenyiora said. "But it's not going to be about coaching. It's going to be about what the players are able to do, and you need that veteran leadership."

Umenyiora butted heads with Giants general manager Jerry Reese in the past over renegotiating his contract. **METRO**

'Over'-taken

Yankees plan to use Overbay

The Yankees only had three days to look at Lyle Overbay before deciding whether they wanted to keep him. It was apparently all they needed.

Juan Rivera, who had been in camp all spring as a nonroster invitee, was cut on Thursday. **METRO**



J.R. Smith has reinserted himself into the NBA's Sixth Man of the Year conversation. / NBAE, GETTY IMAGES

What's gotten into Knicks' J.R. Smith?

NBA. The team's tempestuous guard is suddenly carrying New York on its winning streak.

The Knicks are on a roll right now, thanks to the hot hand of their electric swingman. But to the surprise of many, it's not Carmelo Anthony who's been leading the way, but rather shooting guard J.R. Smith.

The 27-year-old backup has suddenly flipped the switch and been relied upon by head coach Mike Woodson to lead the way for the Knicks (44-26) during their current six-game winning streak. Smith has

averaged 24.6 points per game for the Knicks during this stretch — currently tying for their longest winning streak of the season — and is the longest current streak in the NBA.

Smith just completed his first back-to-back 30-point nights of his NBA career, and became the first Knicks reserve to net 30-plus in consecutive games since 2010.

The fact Woodson trusts Smith so much is a testament to both the coach's hard work and the player's willingness to accept the fact that he's now a seasoned veteran who needs to shed the image of a sometimes troublesome nuisance for coaches.

Woodson acknowled-

ged it hasn't been an easy journey, but said Smith has done everything asked of him and he hasn't seen too many of the antics that clouded Smith's reputation.

"I can't speak for other coaches who had him before me, but I saw some things in him that I liked and that's why we wanted him back," Woodson said. "It was my job to coach him and show him some love, and I think he's responded nicely for our club. There's always room for improvement, and there's a ways to go, but I think he's getting there."

TONY WILLIAMS
sports@metro.us

What's for breakfast?

Smith's teammates are impressed, if miffed, about his current ascension.

• "He's dialed in right now," said Anthony. "We're just hoping he keeps it dialed in right now because the way he's going right now, he's putting the team over the top."

• "I don't know what he's eating for breakfast, or dinner, or whatever it is, but we need him to keep doing it," joked Kenyon Martin. "He's putting us on his back."

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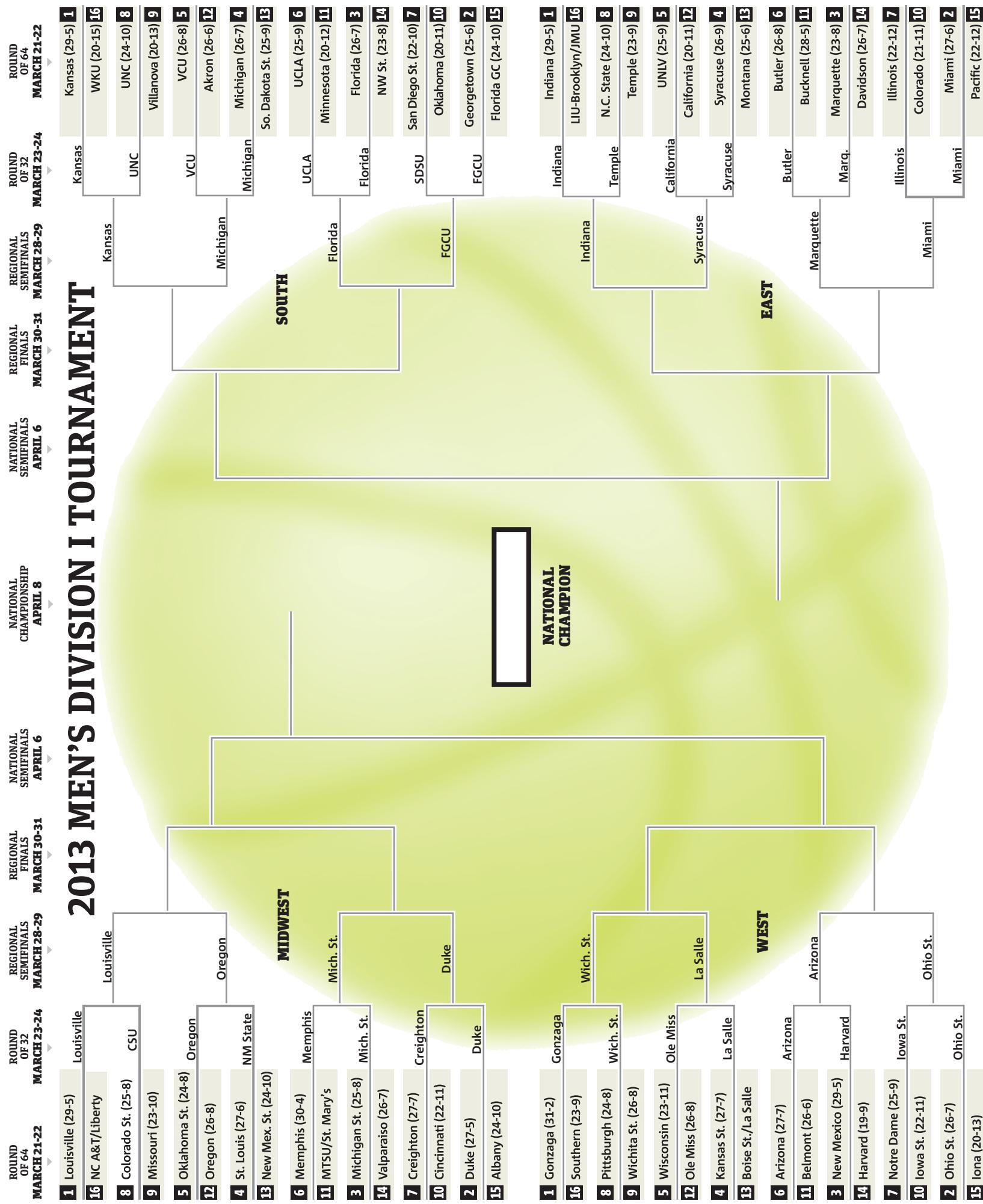
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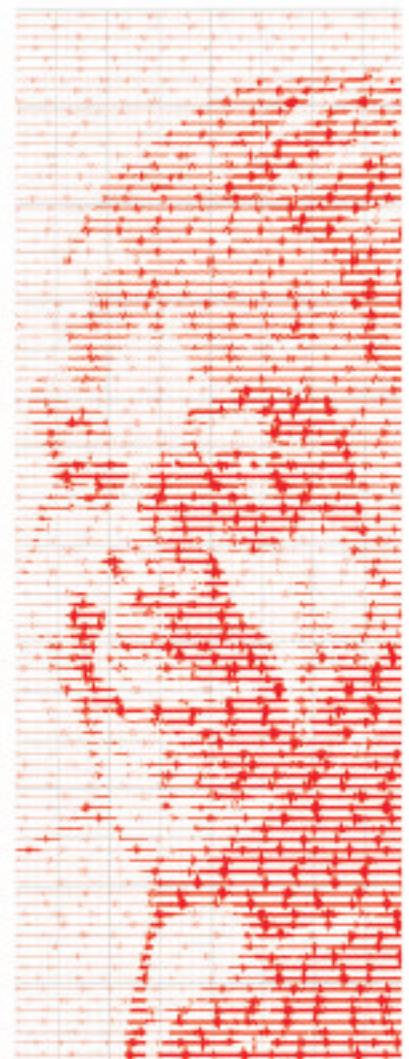
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